

Subahan Dance

1. Em

Su - ba - han Qu - dus - san Rab - bil Ma - lei - ka

2. Em

lei - ka wa Ruh wa Ruh wa Ruh wa

Words: traditional Arabic dua (plea) in the version of Hazrat Inayat Khan
 Music and dance: Leilah Be

Subahan Quddussan Rabbil Maleika wa Ruh

- Subahan* One of the qualities of the One. Pure and unmixed, undiluted, refined. Also known in the familiar Qur'an phrase *Subhan Allah* (Glory to God)
- Qudussan* Another quality of Unity, traditionally translated as 'holy'. The same root led in Hebrew to the word Kadosh
- Rabb* 'Lord'. The Sri Lanka Sufi Bawa Muhaiyaddeen translates rabb as 'Cherisher and Sustainer' and explains that *Rabb* also has the "meaning of cherishing, sustaining, bringing to maturity" (*Dhikr, the Remembrance of God, 1999*)
- Maleika* Angel
- wa* and
- Ruh* Spirit. The final 'h' in Arabic is strongly aspirated and pronounced. In the Quran, ruh is associated with the creation, with prophecy and with the end of times. Like the Latin Spiritus and the Indo-Germanic *geist* (ghost), ruh originally meant the blowing of the wind and breath and through 'inspiration ('blowing in') came to mean 'spirit'

We learned this dance from its composer, Murshida Leilah Be, and were immediately captivated by it. We next took it to Efpatoria, Ukraine, a venerable city of over 2,500 years of age. There we danced this dance in the amazing Mevlevi tekke, the oldest one in existence outside of Turkey. The overwhelming baraka and acoustics gave an incredible atmosphere. We had to brace and ground ourselves to lead the dance. We are grateful to Murshida Leilah for her inspiration and her permission to record this zikr. This is what she writes in her booklet '*Zikar Compositions*':

These words are an invitation to have an experience of being immersed in essential purity (Subhan) and Holy Presence (Quddus). We call to the angels (Maleika) and the 'Lord' (Rabbil) of all the angels, to be with us and in our breath (wa Ruh). Within the breath, the pure essential nature and holiness of our Being.

The words are Hazrat Inayat Khan's version of the traditional dua (Islamic prayer or plea outside the obligatory prayers):

*Subbuhun Quddusun Rabbul Malaikaiti waaruh
Perfect and Holy [are You],
Lord of the angels and the spirit [here meaning Gabriel].*

In Inayat Khan's rendering (from *Ein Sufi-Brevier*, Verlag Heilbronn, 1991, p. 69 – 70), some of the words have a different meaning:

Prayer of Invocation.

As sung by Inayat Khan.

Prayer of Invocation

Praise to Thee, Who art hidden & yet manifest
Praise to Thy Glory, Might, Power & Dominion,
To Whom belong all Majesty & Greatness,
Who art the source of all things.
Praise to Thee, King of Kings,
Ruler of all creation,
Who controlleth all things and hast
power over all things,
Thou who wast from the beginning,
and art without end, for ever and for ever,
Who art eternal, above all, beyond all,
O God, Lord and Ruler over angels
and mankind.

English Version of words.

70

Movements

All face center and hold hands

1. Subahan
2. Quddusan
3. Rabbil Maleika
4. wa Ruh (4x)

1. Step left swaying, moving from the heart
2. Step right swaying, moving from the heart
3. Spin slowly to the left

Repeat

4. Join hands and step right

Begin again